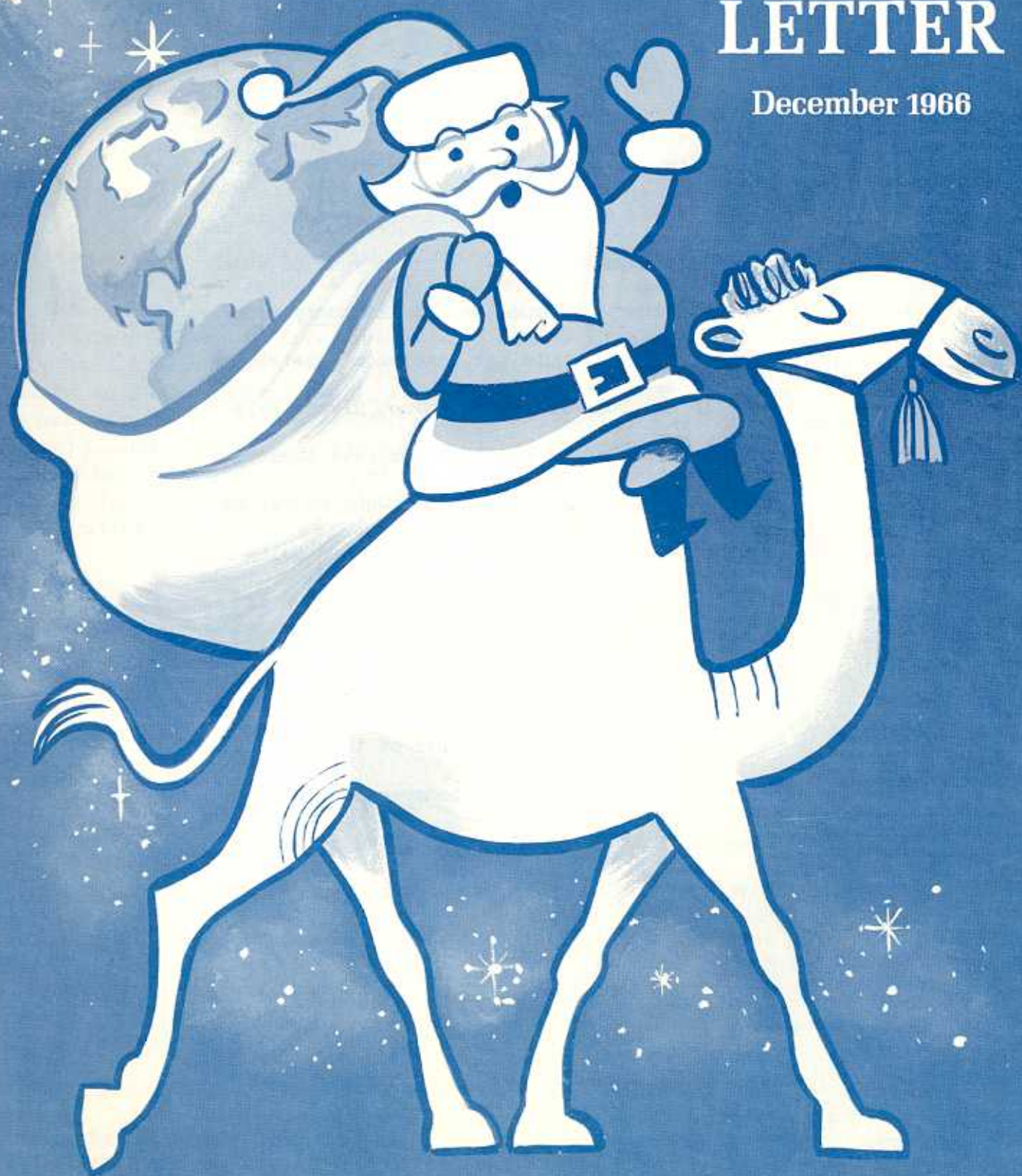


THE FAS LETTER

December 1966



This has been a banner year for American agriculture, a year of record achievement in our international trade. It is a year of which you who serve us abroad can be extremely proud. Without you, it would not have been possible.

In our busy lives, we do not always take time as often as we should to express appreciation for work well done. So I want to assure you at this time that the work you are doing -- day-in-and-day-out, year-after-year -- is deeply and sincerely appreciated by your FAS, by the Secretary and the whole Department, by our farmers, and by the people of the nation.

I wish you and yours Godspeed and good cheer at this Christmas season, and may you have health and happiness throughout the New Year.

Ray Vane

CHRISTMAS 'ROUND-THE-WORLD



THE HOLIDAYS ARE MOVING DAYS FOR C. R. 'Esky' Eskildsen and his secretary, Lorraine Ostroot. Esky and Lorraine are moving from their familiar offices in South Building to new quarters in the Administration Building now that he has been named Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Affairs by Secretary Orville Freeman. Associate Administrator for FAS since August, 1962, Esky will give general direction to IADS and FAS technical assistance and food aid programs. With FAS he has served as assistant administrator of export programs, attache to Bonn and New Delhi, and director of Foreign Trade Programs. Earlier he held positions with AMS, Office of the Secretary, Food Stamp Plan, and the School Lunch Program, and in Asia with the U.S. Mutual Security Administration and Economic Cooperation Administration. He received a Departmental Superior Service Award in 1957 and a Distinguished Service Award in 1966 for his work in harmonizing U.S. commercial export expansion and global food aid objectives.



Christmas is a time for foresight

A time for memories

A time for family

A time for friends

A time for home

A time for hope

A time for challenges

And a time to express our fondest regards and wishes for a Joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Christmas



LITTLE MARIKO NAITO seems to be watching holiday preparations as the Tokyo attache staff readies for her first Christmas. Mariko, born May 17, is the daughter of Agricultural Assistant Kenzo Naito and Mrs. Naito. Mr. Naito is the newest member of Attache Elmer Hallowell's staff, having joined the office in January, 1966. He is a graduate of the Graduate School, University of Hawaii, and East-West Center, Honolulu.



SPENDING THEIR SECOND CHRISTMAS in Ireland are the two sons of Richard Bell, agricultural attache in Dublin. They are David and Steve, ages 5 and 3 1/2. The boys, students at Park House School, are looking forward to taking part in their school's annual Christmas pageant.

is for Children

LOOK AT OUR CRECHE, smiles Jimmy McConnell, son of Assistant Attache Robert M. McConnell, at his Lima home. Younger sister Kathy seems more interested in looking at Jimmy.





STANDING UNDER THE BANANA TREE was fun for Linda and John Welton, children of Dick and Helen, stationed at San Salvador. They will have more fun at Christmas when the harvested tree is replaced by the traditional pinata. The attached photo shows younger brother George watching in obvious merriment.



Attache Joe Dodson, his wife, Dorothy, and their sons, of Buenos Aires, are hoping to spend the holidays on an estancia. Other members of the FAS team plan to spend Christmas in Buenos Aires with their families and friends.

Christmas arrives in Argentina in the middle of summer. The evening of the 24th is celebrated with displays of fireworks in the public parks, after which the people go to a midnight mass called "Misa de Gallo"--mass of the rooster. Christmas day is reserved for visiting friends. The families dress up in new clothes on this day (rather than on Easter). The giving of gifts to the children is usually reserved for January 6, the Feast of the Kings of Epiphany.

THERE WON'T BE ANY SNOW in Sao Paulo, but the Shackford Pitchers (below) are anticipating a gay holiday anyway. Son, John, and daughter, Karen, assist Birgitta and Shack in setting up their Christmas tree. John, a Carioca (born in Rio de Janeiro) is fast becoming a Paulista. Karen, 3, who remembers "Papa Noel" from last year, says she is neither a Carioca nor Paulista but a menina (the Portuguese word for little girl). Christmas day will probably find the Pitchers getting away from the heat by going to the beach in Santos.



LET THE SUN SHINE on Christmas day, the Traeger children will enjoy it anyway. Pictured below around the Christmas tree in Lima are Kyle, 5, Cindy, 6, and Mark, 9. They are the children of Fred and Virginia Traeger.





THAT'S ELIZABETH PERSI sitting on the lap of Saint Nicolas, and she obviously is not very pleased. Little Elizabeth is the 17-month-old daughter of Alfred R. Persi, Assistant Attache to the European Community in Brussels, Belgium. According to Belgian custom, children receive holiday gifts on December 6. Elizabeth need not cry, however, for she will receive gifts on December 6 and December 25.



Agricultural Attache Bill Hatch and Mrs. Hatch are coming to the States to attend a wedding on December 16.



TRY U.S. POULTRY FOR FESTIVE FEASTS say Assistant Attache Glenn R. Samson and Agricultural Assistant Jacques A. Laruelle as they participate in an in-store promotion in Brussels. Turkey roasts, turkey drumsticks and duckling seem to be receiving special promotional attention by the two.

RECRUITING FOR FAS

Mr. and Mrs. Byron Montgomery of Caracas announce the birth of a six-pound-three-ounce daughter on October 3. Named Elizabeth, the baby joins two other children, Gordon and Melissa. A Utah native, Byron has been assistant agricultural attache in Caracas since January, 1966. Mrs. Montgomery is the former Catherine Brown of Phoenix. Prior to his Caracas appointment, Byron served as agricultural economist in the Fats and Oils Division.

Mr. and Mrs. John Bond Parker, Jr., announce the birth of a daughter, Sylvia Elizabeth, October 18 at an Alexandria, Virginia, hospital. The Parkers recently returned from Cairo where John was assistant agricultural attache. He is now doing Far Eastern long term projections as a member of the Economic Research Staff. The Parkers live at 6219 Villa St., Alexandria.

Lloyd Williams announces the birth of a grandson, Mark Russell Person, on October 21 at Manchester, Conn. Lloyd, who is with the Trade Projects Division, was formerly an attache in the Philippines, Cuba and Burma.



 Season's Greetings
 С НОВЫМ ГОДОМ
 Meilleurs Voeux
 Feliz Año Nuevo
 Beste Wensen



LOOKING
YOUR WAY
are the
two sons of
Tammanoon
Premsoontorn,
Bangkok
staff,
Napadol, 1,
and Taratorn,
3. They
wish you

SANTA MADE AN EARLY TRIP TO JAPAN for the convenience of parents who wanted Christmas photos. The Minyard children, Cindy, 7, and Terrie, 4, held a pre-season conference with Santa in preparation for their fourth Christmas in Japan. They are the daughters of Jimmy and Billie Minyard. Jimmy is assistant attache on the Tokyo staff.



Val Hougén and wife, Margaret, enjoyed the holiday on home leave in Seattle, Washington.

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WESTERN TYPE CAKES are enjoyed in all types of celebrations in Thailand, according to Attache Sam Work. Two of Bhornchai Kunalai's children, Jeek Jeek and Jook Jook, are honored at a joint birthday celebration. Pictured around the cake, left to right, are: Benjamin Vongsuly; Araya Kunalai, alias Jeek Jeek; Gamjornchai Kunalai, alias Jaak Jaak; Narabhorn Kunalai, alias Jook Jook; Mily Vongsuly.





SANTA VISITS MOROCCO--Although the women hurried away when Art Minor asked permission to take pictures, the Moslem men and children were happy to pose with Santa in a Rabat department store. The dolls, tricycles and other toys are displayed in a branch of the Galleries Lafayette, a French department store.



"My wife Ellen is taking care of all arrangements for our first Christmas abroad," said John DeCourcy as he completed his last day at the FAS/W office before going to Cairo to take up his duties as assistant agricultural attache. Ellen had tucked away gifts and ideas for the four children, Susan, 11, Anne, 7, John, 5, and James, 2.

INGRAM-PADGETT WEDDING BELLS

Bob Ingram, assistant director of Foreign Market Information Division, is receiving best wishes these days following his marriage Nov. 19 to Iris Clark Padgett, a psychiatric social worker on the staff of the Department of HEW. They are making their home in Fairfax County, Va. With his marriage, Bob joins the ranks of FAS's growing grandfather club.



U.S. Ambassador to Sweden, J. Graham Parsons, and Mrs. Parsons were among those who expressed delight with the "America the Beautiful" pictures recently sent to all attaches. According to Agricultural Attache James Lankford, Mrs. Parsons will use them as a part of her embassy beautification program. The Trade Center also wants to use them to decorate the conference room.



WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS, say Miss USDA of 1967, Sandra Lee Jones, and runner-up Millie Quirante, FAS. Miss USDA was crowned at the November 5 Harvest Ball by our own Marty Payne, Miss USDA 1966. They were chosen from 22 Ag beauties. Millie has worked since June for Roger Euler and Syd Constantinos, General Sales Division. One of nine children, Millie is looking forward to a family reunion at her home in Friendly, Md., southeast of Washington.



THE FAS LETTER

To U. S. Agricultural Attache Posts

United States Department of Agriculture
Foreign Agricultural Service
Washington 25, D.C.

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WHETHER THE WORD NOEL BE BILINGUAL OR MULTILINGUAL, Dick and Helen Roberts' 1965 Christmas decorations pleased Canadian officials who were stressing bilingualism and biculturalism. Dr. L. Bradley Pett, Director General, Health Services, National Health and Welfare Department, Canada, complimented the couple on their yule decorations a few months after they arrived in Ottawa. The inset shows Helen as she anticipates her second Christmas in Ottawa. Among the Roberts' expected dinner guests on Christmas day will be Assistant Attache Gordon Lloyd and his wife, Virginia, and son, David, and Senior Agricultural Analyst Stan Horsman of the Ottawa staff.

★ ★

Former Attache Chester E. Davis and Hazel are enjoying the holidays with their children and grandchildren in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Since last spring the Davises have visited Virginia, Washington, New York, North Carolina, Spain, and the United Kingdom. After January 10, they will return to Florida for some concentrated fishing, hunting, swimming, and golfing.

PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL FESTIVALS is often enjoyed by Ambassador and Mrs. Chester Bowles in New Delhi. On October 29, the Ambassador invited all Indian employees and their families to Roosevelt House for a fete entitled "Diwali Mela" complete with bright candles, fireworks, merry-go-rounds and other rides, Goanese dances and a circus. Diwali is the biggest festival of the year. Pictured at the Diwali Mela at Roosevelt House are Kamar, Thiagarajan, Ponnuswamy, Meenakshi, Raj, Krishnaswamy, Nathan, Radhika, Mrs. Nathan, and Kalyani. Raj is chief personnel assistant at the embassy and Nathan is the research analyst in the Agricultural Attache office.



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM NEW DELHI

The holiday season starts early in India. By mid-October the seasonal activity is in full swing with preparation for Dussehra, a time of the year when huge effigies are burned to celebrate Ram's triumph over evil. In mid-November the big festival of the year, Diwali, occurs. Shoppers throng the streets busily buying each other gifts. While decorations are absent, the average American experiences a tinge of Christmas nostalgia as he fights his way through the crowds.

The joys and wonders of Christmas are greatest with the younger set, so the biggest flurry of activities among Americans in Delhi rest not with the Boulevares, Packards and Weimers but with FAS's newest arrival in India, the Guy Havilands.

At 18, Terry Packard, son of Ross and Berniece, won't hang his Christmas stocking, but he still might like accessories for his electric guitar.

The Haviland's three children will be enjoying their first Christmas abroad. They have already selected places along the fireplace for their stockings. Christmas morning, bright and early, the servants will be in to see the Christmas tree and to give and receive presents, not only at the Haviland's but in every American home in Delhi.

...a wren, attached to a little box or a bunch of feathers that simulate a wren. This custom of "Hunting the wren" is a tradition in many parts of the world.

Herbert B. Kalish, Property, General Supply and Space Section, left.

FAR EAST ATTACHE CONFERENCE

Kuala Lumpur was the site of an Agricultural and Market Development Trade Policy and Food Aid (P.L. 480) Seminar from November 30 to December 6. Washington staffers scheduled to attend included Assistant Secretary for International Affairs, Mrs. Dorothy Jacobson; Deputy Assistant Administrator for Program Development, Tom Street; Director of Trade Projects Division, Jim Howard; Inspector General, Lester P. Condon; ERS Chief, Far Eastern Branch, Clarence Pike; Assistant Administrator for Agricultural Attaches, Horace Davis; Deputy Assistant Administrator, Management, Kenneth McDaniel; and Far East and Southern Asia Area Officer, Paul Taggart. Overseas attache staffers planning to attend were: Robert E. Adcock, Kuala Lumpur; James Boulware, New Delhi; Robert B. Evans, Bombay; Elmer Hallowell, Tokyo; William R. Hatch, Canberra; Gordon Loveless, Wellington; Lee R. Paramore, Manila; Charalambos Stephanides, Tehran; John Wermohs, Hong Kong; Joseph R. Williams, Ankara; Elmer Winner and Harry Bryan, Karachi; Samuel Work, Bangkok.



BANANA PIE, BANANA CAKE, BANANA PUDDING have all become a traditional item on U.S. holiday menus. Before leaving his attache post in

Pakistan, Harry Varney visited the wholesale market at Hyderabad. Pictured at the auction are, left to right, Dr. Farooqui, agricultural economist, Harry, Mrs. Locke, and Ambassador Locke. The Varneys spent the holidays at their Vermont farm home.



LESTER R.
BROWN



Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman has announced the designation of Lester R. Brown as Acting Administrator of the International Agricultural Development Service. Les succeeds Matthew Drosdoff, who has accepted a professorship of tropical soils in the Cornell University Agronomy Department.

Les began his Federal career in the Department of Agriculture in FAS in 1959 as a country specialist for the Southeast Asian countries. In 1961 his division was transferred to ERS.

As a member of the Secretary of Agriculture's Staff Economist Group since 1964, Les has been an adviser to Secretary Freeman on agricultural aid policy. This year he was one of 10 young men from the executive branch of government to receive the Arthur S. Fleming award for outstanding achievement.



Most Christmas customs in Ireland are similar to our own. An exception is the custom of "Hunting the Wren" by young boys on Saint Stephen's Day, the day after Christmas. The "Wren Boys", gaily dressed and playing upon miscellaneous musical instruments, request a slight financial contribution towards the burial of a wren, which they claim they have hunted and slain with very great labour and hardship. One of the "Boys" carries the wren bush, a decorated branch of evergreen, attached to a little box or a bunch of feathers that simulate a wren. This custom of "Hunting the Wren" is a recent version of a custom which was old in Western Europe when the Christian Gospel was first preached in the hills of Galilee. The actual origin of the merry ritual as theorized by scholars trails in a number of directions.

ROAMING AROUND



Administrator Ray Ioanes left Washington November 13 for Geneva where he participated in the Kennedy Round Conferences for a week. Before leaving, Ray expressed his appreciation to all employees who gave so generously to the 1967 Combined Federal Campaign. FAS exceeded its goal by having \$19,888.60 pledged to the participating organizations. Of this total, \$2,120 were received from FAS'ers stationed abroad. We can all take pride in the Certificate of Achievement given FAS for outstanding service in the campaign, and in the personal letter of congratulations we received from Secretary Freeman.



New Orleans and New York trade groups were visited in November by four FAS attache staffers. The four were: Elmer Winner, attache to Karachi; Val Hougén, attache to Tel Aviv; John DeCourcy, assistant agricultural attache to Cairo; D. L. "Mac" MacDonald, Agricultural Attache Service, Washington. The visits were made to familiarize the attaches more intimately with the mechanics of exporting U.S. commodities.



Our sympathy to Bob and Catherine Adcock who were in an automobile accident while on home leave near Phoenix in October. Catherine suffered two fractured vertebrae and two fractured ribs. Bob arrived in Kuala Lumpur November 14. Catherine is expected to join him about mid-December.



Herbert B. Kalish, Property, General Supply and Space Section, left Monday, October 24, as navigator on a flight to Vietnam. Actually Kalish's duty was short since he was fulfilling his two weeks reserve duty with the Military Airlift Command, U.S. Air Force.

Christmas day in Peru is usually spent swimming or participating in some other warm weather sports. Christmas dinner and a gift exchange often follow the attendance of a midnight mass, according to Margarita Grant of the Lima staff, who was with FAS/W in November for specialized training. Informal visiting with Margarita revealed that she and husband, Sydney, had recently vacationed in London, Madrid, Paris, Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Stuttgart, Zurich, and Florence.



CHRISTMAS IN WASHINGTON

The air is crisp and cold. Shoppers are scurrying from store to store. Packages are being wrapped; trees are being sought. As we leave FAS/W at night rows of shining red brake lights add to the glitter and glisten of the streets, highways, parkways, and beltways that wind us homeward. On December 16, President Lyndon Johnson will light the Christmas tree and officially open the annual Pageant of Peace. Families, school groups, and tourists alike will throng to the ellipse to view the live reindeer, a blazing yule log, and a full size Nativity scene. Choral music and concerts will provide the background. Many will stroll beside the neighboring Pan American Union to see a second nativity scene. The initial dismay felt when some merchants began displaying yule decorations before the last Halloween pumpkin had been hollowed has been forgotten. Christmas will soon be a memory. The hopes, joys, frustrations will all be past. And we look forward, once again, with anticipation to a new year.